From: Christopher Williams
To: Mike Gibson
Subject: Re: DFR/RTCC Write Up For Police Council Article
Date: Thursday, February 5, 2026 10:43:19 AM

Mike, I appreciate all you do for us and our community!

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From: Mike Gibson <mikegibson2842@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 10:21:01 AM
To: Christopher Williams <cwilliams@cityofsantamaria.org>
Subject: Re: DFR/RTCC Write Up For Police Council Article

*** EXTERNAL EMAIL: Please use caution when opening links or attachments.***

This is awesome Chris. I am so proud to get to support you on this.

We will get this article in the April Police Council Newsletter.

Mike

On Thu, Feb 5, 2026 at 9:54 AM Christopher Williams <cwilliams@cityofsantamaria.org> wrote:

> Mike, let me know if this works for you:
>
> Drone as a First Responder (DFR) and a Real Time Information Center (RTIC) reflect a technology-driven enhancement and evolution in how the Santa Maria Police Department manages calls for service, allocates resources, and coordinates responses. At its core, Drone as a First Responder is about time and information. A drone can be launched within seconds and arrive on scene, typically well before the first patrol unit, providing an immediate view of what is actually occurring rather than relying solely on thirdhand information. That early perspective is critical, as it provides viable, real-time information, such as whether a suspect is present or has fled, whether a reported disturbance is active or resolved, or whether responding officers are walking into an unknown or avoidable risk. In terms of efficiency and safety, a DFR can also prevent unnecessary emergency responses, limit the number of units committed to low priority incidents, and allow officers to remain available for higher risk calls. At the same time, when a serious threat is identified, resources can be deployed in a more coordinated and strategic manner.
>
> When DFR is combined with a Real Time Information Center, the operational benefit is exponential. The Real Time Information Center functions as the central point where live drone video, dispatch information, prior calls, records data, fixed camera feeds,

license plate reader data, and officer locations are reviewed together. Personnel assigned to the RTIC can interpret and disseminate this information as it develops and communicate clear, concise updates to the field, reducing radio congestion and uncertainty for responding units.

The interoperability of a DFR and RTIC improves decision making at every level. Patrol officers arrive with a clearer understanding of the scenes, supervisors can adjust tactics based on verified conditions, and command staff can determine whether an incident requires additional resources or whether a scaled response is more appropriate. This leads to safer outcomes for officers and the public because decisions are based on real time intelligence and observations.

The integration of Drone as a First Responder with a Real Time Information Center emphasizes accountability and a progressive, real time policing strategy. Incidents are documented through video and system records, allowing for accurate after-action review, training, and performance evaluation. This documentation also supports transparency by providing objective information when incidents are later reviewed by leadership or the public.

These programs are not about replacing officers or relying on technology for its own sake. They are tools that support sound policing principles by improving awareness, reducing unnecessary risk, and deploying resources in a manner consistent with actual conditions.

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